

Remarks

This submission is prepared in view of the Final Office Action dated October 23, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated January 29, 2007. Currently claims 1-32 are pending in the application, wherein claims 1-11 have been rejected and claims 12-32 have been withdrawn from consideration consequent an Examiner-induced requirement for restriction. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended with this paper, claims 33-38 have been added, and claims 12-32 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in the specification at page 6, line 18 through page 7, line 12; and page 15, line 15 through page 16, line 14; and in FIGS. 7-9. Favorable consideration of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dobak, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,245,095, hereinafter "Dobak"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites:

A medical device, comprising:
an elongate core member having a longitudinal axis, wherein at least a portion of the core member has a solid cross-section taken perpendicular to the longitudinal axis;
a polymer jacket disposed over at least a portion of the solid cross-sectional portion of the core member, the polymer jacket having a textured outer surface; and
wherein the textured outer surface is defined by a helical groove formed in the outer surface of the polymer jacket.

Applicants respectfully assert Dobak fails to anticipate this claim. Namely, Dobak fails to teach an elongate core member having a solid cross-section taken perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongate core member, and a polymer jacket disposed over the core member as currently claimed in claim 1. As evidenced in Dobak, the inner tube 42 is a tubular member not having a solid cross-section taken perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the inner tube 42. In fact, if the inner tube 42 were to have a solid cross-section, the device disclosed in Dobak would become inoperable for its intended purpose. Namely, as evidenced by the arrows in Figure 3 of Dobak, the inner tube 42 requires an inner lumen 40 such that "a working fluid such as saline or other aqueous solution may be circulated through the heat transfer element 14." See Dobak, column 10, line 67 through column 11, lines 10.

For at least these reasons, Dobak fails to anticipate claim 1. Claim 1, as well as claims 2-5 which depend from claim 1 and include addition significant limitations, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 recites:

An intravascular guidewire, comprising:
an elongate core member having a proximal end region and a distal end region, at least a portion of the distal end region having a solid cross-section taken perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the elongate core member;
a polymer jacket disposed over the distal end region of the core member, the polymer jacket having a textured outer surface; and
wherein the textured outer surface is defined by a helical channel formed in the outer surface of the polymer jacket.

Applicants respectfully assert Dobak fails to anticipate this claim. Namely, as indicated above, Dobak fails to teach an elongate core member having a solid cross-section taken perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongate core member, and a polymer jacket disposed over the core member as currently claimed in claim 6.

For at least the reasons stated above, Dobak fails to anticipate claim 6. Claim 6, as well as claims 7-11 which depend from claim 6 and include addition significant limitations, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Newly presented claim 33 recites:

A medical guidewire, comprising:
an elongate core member having a proximal region and a distal region;
a polymer jacket disposed over the distal end region of the elongate core member, the polymer jacket having an outer surface, wherein a helical channel is formed in the outer surface of the polymer jacket; and
a coating disposed over the polymer jacket.

Applicants respectfully assert Dobak fails to anticipate this claim. Namely, in the event the Examiner equates a paralyene coating as taught in Dobak with the claimed polymer jacket (which the Applicants respectfully traverse as evidenced in Applicants' remarks submitted on December 22, 2006) then Dobak fails to teach the coating as currently claimed. In the event the Examiner equates the paralyene coating as taught in Dobak with the claimed coating, then Dobak fails to teach a polymer jacket as currently claimed. Namely, as discussed in Applicants' remarks submitted on December 22, 2006, at no point does Dobak disclose the element 20 of

Dobak as being polymeric. Dobak teaches that "the heat transfer element is made of a high thermal conductivity material, such as metal." Dobak, at column 9, lines 5-7.

For at least these reasons, Dobak fails to anticipate claim 33. Claim 33, as well as claim 34 which depends from claim 33 and includes addition significant limitations, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Newly presented claim 35 recites:

A medical guidewire comprising:
an elongate core member having a proximal region and a distal region, the distal region of the elongate core member including a tapered diameter portion;
and
a polymer jacket disposed over at least a portion of the tapered diameter portion of the distal region of the elongate core member;
wherein the polymer jacket has a textured outer surface defined by a helical groove formed in the outer surface of the polymer jacket.

Applicants respectfully assert Dobak fails to anticipate this claim. Namely, at no point does Dobak disclose a polymer jacket disposed over a tapered diameter portion of an elongate core member as currently claimed in claim 35.

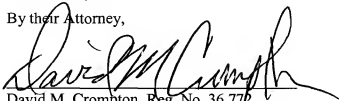
For at least these reasons, Dobak fails to anticipate claim 35. Claim 35, as well as claims 36-38 which depend from claim 35 and include addition significant limitations, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is submitted that all pending claims are currently in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612.677.9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,



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